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For and on behalf of
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TODAY'S WEATHER: Moderate or fresh Easterly winds.
Fair.
Noon Observations: Barometric pressure, 1022.0 mbs., 30.21
In. Temperature, 64.1 deg. F. Dew point, 55 deg. F. Relative
humidity, 73. Wind direction, East. Wind force, 15 knots.
High water: 6 ft. 8 in. at 10.28 p.m. Low water: 2 ft. 7 in. at
4.07 p.m. (Wednesday).

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VOL. IV NO. 49

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1949.

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COMMUNISTS' PEACE

DELEGATES CHOSEN

Nanking Said To Have List

REDS MAY BE WILLING TO MODIFY DEMANDS

Shanghai, Mar. 1.—It was reliably learned, but unconfirmed, today that the Chinese Communists have already chosen members of the delegation which will sit down with the Nationalists at the peace table, and there is evidence that the Communists are willing to modify their demands for stiff penalties for the "war criminal" list headed by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

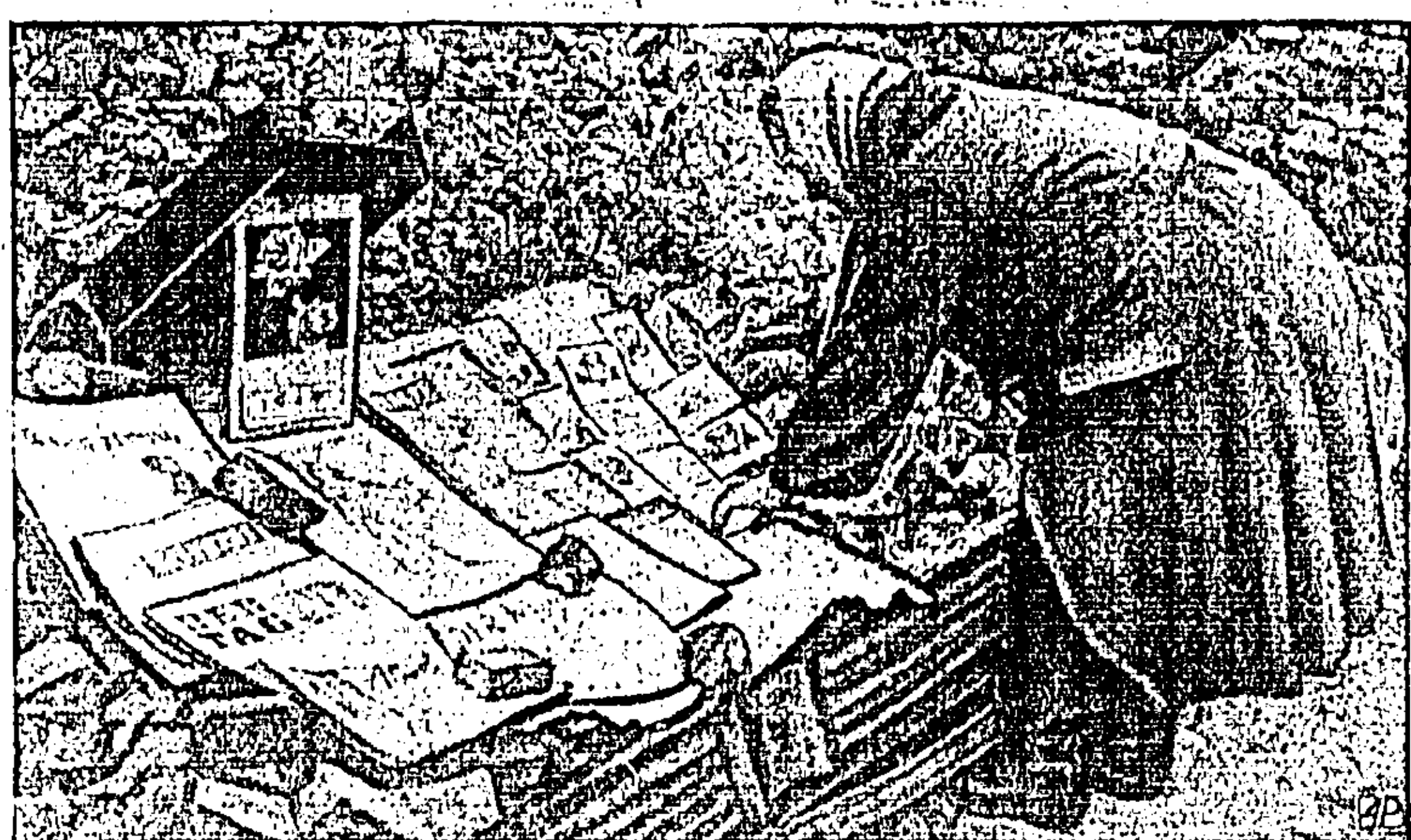
Chinese reports asserted this morning that the unofficial peace mission headed by Dr. W. W. Yen, of which the government delegate, Shao Li-tze, is also a member, was informed at Peiping of the names of the Communist negotiators and the information has been handed on to government officials at Nanking. However, none of the names was made public.

Other information from sources close to the Shanghai mission members pointed to the softening of the war criminal demands but increased emphasis by the Communists on the reorganisation of the Nationalist armies.

One report indicated that the are being listed, presumably as obstacles to avoid in the new peace discussions. The revived spirit of unity between the Nanking and Canton factions was stressed by most of the Chinese reports. Temporarily at least, President Li Tsung-shan is the actual as well as the titular head of the government.

REPAIRING MACHINE

Premier Sun Fo's decision to return to Nanking to meet critics and face the overall peace problem, it is generally believed, will result in sufficient repair to the mediation programme likewise



An old woman newsdealer spreads her wares atop a pile of rubble in Berlin. She is one of the many small vendors amid the city's war ruins.

China's Basic Currency

Shanghai, Mar. 1.—Governor S. Y. Liu of the Central Bank declared yesterday evening that the Gold Yuan will continue to be the basic currency for China, following the introduction of the economic reform, and all business transactions, contracts and accounting should continue to be stated in Gold Yuan. He said the Gold Yuan would continue to be issued on a restricted scale. Mr. Liu also announced that the Central Bank and other Government banks would shortly undertake to buy foreign currencies at prices to be quoted daily. Mr. Liu said that to combat skyrocketing commodity prices the Central Bank would continue to dump supplies on the market.—Reuter.

Does Trade On Rubble

MAYHEW WAS "NEEDED" INTO RASH STATEMENT

Britain's Recovery Not Yet Complete

Washington, Feb. 28.—Mr Paul G. Hoffman, the Marshall Aid Administrator, claimed today that Mr Christopher Mayhew, the British Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, had been "needed by the Russians" into saying that Britain had already achieved recovery.

He characterised both this and yesterday's statement by Mr Hector McNeill, that Mr Mayhew had been "telling the truth," as "almost purely political."

Mr Hoffman, "embarrassed and distressed" by the Mayhew affair, appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today to save the British allocation under the second year of Marshall aid. The general opinion here is that he may have succeeded.

The Committee had called in Mr Hoffman and a group of advisers to justify Britain's share of the \$5,500 million to be allocated under the European Recovery Programme in its second year. Mr Hoffman said that any reduction in Britain's allocation would adversely affect continued recovery in both the United States and Western Europe. "We are convinced that the salvation of Western Europe depends upon the joint economic effort of all the participants and can only be achieved by mutual aid and closer economic co-operation."

"Any setback to a country so important as Britain would be bound to have the most serious consequences."

CUTS IMPOSSIBLE
He told the Committee that no cut could be made in the aid to Britain, despite the statement of Mr Mayhew that Britain had "virtually achieved recovery."

It remains to be seen what effect the British statements will have on the full Senate debate in the next few weeks.

On Saturday, Mr McNeill, Minister of State, speaking in Scotland, said Mr Mayhew had "blurted out the truth at the wrong moment." The same evening, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Cripps, issued a statement that Britain's recovery was not complete and depended on continued American aid.

Mr Hoffman told the Committee: "A cut cannot be made. This present situation is a very distressing one for us. To put it mildly, these speeches have proved very embarrassing to us. But I can say that, if there should be any slowing down of British recovery, I can think of nothing that would be more disastrous to the whole Recovery Programme."

"TIGHT FIT"
Britain's proposed allocation is \$940 million in new aid. Mr Hoffman told the Committee that it was "a tight fit"—the absolute minimum needed. He said the question of cutting the

British programme by at least \$200 million had been explored. In addition to the adverse effect this would have on the British economy, Mr Hoffman said it might cut into the United States exports of cotton, food, tobacco and industrial goods. It would mean that Britain would have to spend much less to spend in the United States, Canada and other markets, where goods could be bought only for dollars.

Senator Tom Connally (Democrat, Texas) said later that he did not think such "material change" would be made in Britain's allocation.

In London, Conservative Members of Parliament are expected to question the Government vigorously tomorrow over the Mayhew incident. The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, will probably reply.

The Conservatives tried unsuccessfully to open the question in the House of Commons today. Mr R. A. Butler said the party regarded the matter as one of extreme urgency.

The Parliamentary Labour Party on Wednesday may also discuss it. Left wing Members will seek to exploit the incident, it was learned.—Reuter.

"Murdered" Aboriginal Still Alive

TELLS DRAMATIC STORY

Darwin, Feb. 28.—Raiwala, "the greatest aboriginal of all times," who turned up 300 miles from here after his "murder" had been reported last December, today told his own story of a long chase through scrub in pursuit of a young native who had carried off his daughter.

A patrol of white police is now trekking through the Arnhem Land escarpment looking for the "murderer" who was said to have killed him with a shovel-nosed spear. Raiwala, who has acted as right-hand man to Australia's leading anthropologist, Dr Donald Thomson, is now in hospital here.

Four months ago, Raiwala said today, a young aboriginal carried off his daughter. Accompanied by his wife, Maile, he set off in pursuit. After many days' travel, they were ambushed by the aboriginal. Raiwala ducked and a spear aimed at his head passed through his hat. Another spear, aimed at his stomach, passed between his legs. He sidestepped and a third spear passed under his armpit.

The eloping native, a warrior, rushed into the thick scrub, his stolen bride following him. (Continued on Page 5)

Indonesian Republicans Refuse Round-Table Conference

Batavia, Feb. 28.—The Indonesian Republicans have rejected the Netherlands' invitation to attend a round-table conference on the Indonesian problem at the Hague on March 12. At the same time, they charged the Dutch with failure to comply with the United Nations' security resolution on Indonesia.

The flat refusal came from the island of Banka, where the Republican leaders have been held in "protective" custody by the Dutch colonial officials since December.

Dr Mohammed Rum, chairman of the Republican delegation, cabled Batavia. "Our government will never take part in any action evading implementation of the Security Council's resolution."

Neutral sources in Batavia, including United Nations representatives, immediately indicated that the Republicans refused to attend the Hague conference aimed at Indonesian sovereignty.

Yesterday, Indonesian federalist leaders hailed the Netherlands' conference proposal and warmly promised co-operation in sovereignty discussions. However, observers said, the Republican rejection dashed cold water on Dutch hopes for settlement of the Indonesian question outside the United Nations.

Exiled Republicans condemned Dutch inaction on the Security Council's resolution calling on the Netherlands to form an interim government—including the Republicans—by March 15. The United Nations Indonesian Commission on already has indicated that it will report the whole matter back to the Security Council tomorrow (Tuesday), the deadline for Netherlands acceptance.

The Republicans said the Hague's round-table proposal was an "expression of the Republic's denial of the legality of the Security Council's intervention and substitutes a different proposal on their own authority."—United Press.

PALAR'S PREDICTION
New York Feb. 28.—The Indonesian Republican delegate to the UN Security Council, Mr L.N. Palar, predicted today that the Dutch invitation to a round-table conference at the Hague, would "present to the United Nations its own proposals for a solution based on the realities of the present situation in Indonesia and Southeast Asia."

The Dutch call for a conference was "clear rejection and outright defiance of the Security Council's three resolutions, adopted since the Dutch launched their attack on the Republic on December 13."

He said the United Nations was "bound to act on Dutch non-compliance" before March 12, but if the Council took no action, the nations represented at the recent New Delhi conference were "deaf to come to our assistance."

Mr Palar told the press the Dutch statement of policy was designed to avoid:

1. Restoring the Republic of Indonesia.
 2. Negotiating with the Republic as a party in a dispute before the Security Council.
 3. Withdrawing Dutch troops.
- All these were called for by the Security Council resolutions, Mr Palar added. "In the Dutch plan, final authority would rest with the Dutch. The Dutch statement claims that sovereignty will be accorded to the United States of Indonesia. However, the Netherlands Ambassador to the United States has already pointed out that in these round-table discussions the Netherlands Government will be bound by limitations of the recent amendment to the Dutch constitution, which was formulated by an all-Dutch commission and which does not give a single guarantee of sovereignty for the United States of Indonesia."

"In reality, the Dutch plan does not give a foundation for reaching any solution at all, much less acceleration of one aspect. All issues which have existed between the Republic and the Netherlands and which have twice led the Dutch to resort to military action will arise again."—United Press.

Weekend "War" Ends In Truce

Bangkok, Feb. 28.—Siam's "weekend war" ended today with a reported truce with the rebels and the appointment of a Government Conciliation Commission.

A Government communique said the troops called out for the suppression of the revolt would be withdrawn by 6 p.m. local time but would be ordered to stand by for further action. At least 43 rebels were arrested. No casualty figures have been released.

The fighting, in which Army and Navy groups clashed in the streets of the capital, was believed to be a prelude to an open revolt against the Government of Marshal Pibul Songkram by the civilian followers of Pridi Panomyong, the wartime leader of the anti-Japanese Resistance Movement. Pridi Panomyong was supported by elements of the Navy.

HOW IT STARTED

First reports from the Siamese Army India said heavy fighting had centred on the railway workshop area on the outskirts of Bangkok, around the Royal Palace in the centre of the city, and at the river mouth town of Paknam, 20 miles to the south.

The fighting began, the statement said, when "a party of people in military uniform attacked the Publicity Department" and took over its radio station—one of the four broadcasting stations in the capital.

The Siamese Air Force and police were understood to have been neutral in the crisis.

The capital was practically back to normal today but Government buildings and strategic points were still strongly guarded. Diplomatic sources regarded the situation as still tense but improving. The rebel leaders were reported to be in conference on a final "peace" settlement.—Reuter.

Butler Robs The Cellar

Arrington, Cambridgeshire, Feb. 28.—Rudyard Kipling's daughter likes her tea but not when it comes out of a sherry bottle. Mrs. Elsie Bamberidge, daughter of the late writer thought the sherry tasted queer. Investigating further in her cellar she found rows of wine bottles filled with tea, ink and water. On Monday her butler, William Kirby, 59, pleaded guilty to stealing £700 worth of wines and liquors. He was sentenced to six months in prison.—Associated Press.

Reds Shower Leaflets On Princess

London, Feb. 28.—Communists showered Princess Elizabeth with propaganda leaflets on Monday.

Appearing in public with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh for the first time since Prince Charles was born, the Princess toured an "ideal home" exhibition staged by the Daily Mail.

Shortly after she arrived two men climbed a balcony rail and threw down leaflets bearing the Communist hammer and sickle.

One of the men shouted "houses for all not for the few. Houses for the working people not for the rich."

A bystander pulled him down. The royal party ignored the incident and went on examining nursery furnishings.

The secretary of the London Young Communist League later told reporters the leaflets had been prepared by the League "pointing out the absurdity of holding an exhibition of ideal homes when 1,000,000 people are homeless in London."—Associated Press.

EDITORIAL

The Star Ferry Service

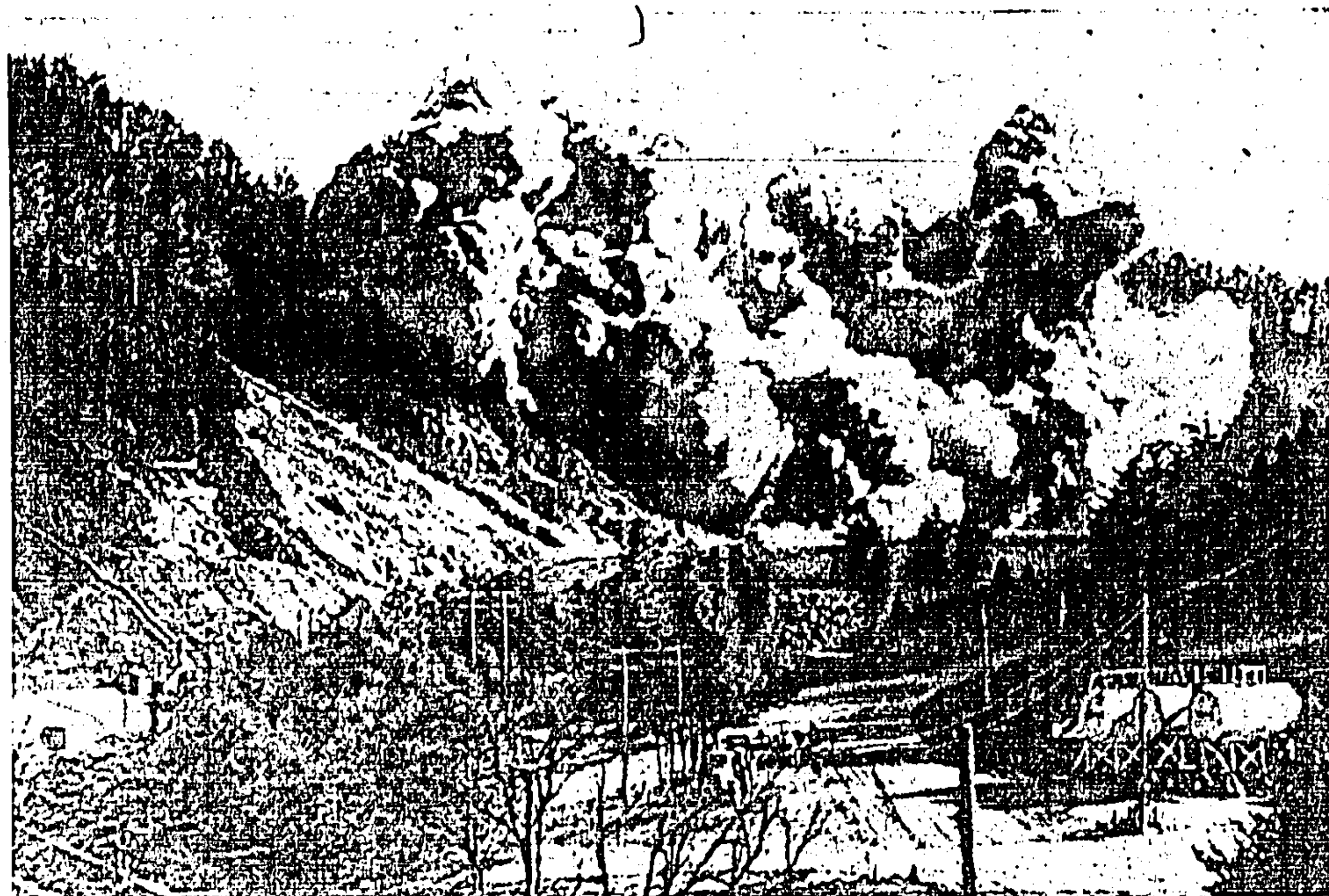
IT has been stressed time and again during the past two years through editorials and by correspondents that, unless and until, the ferries are modernised by means of new piers and decentralised services, the queuing, the overcrowding and the irregular time tables which for so long have characterised cross-harbour commuting, will never be corrected. This was tacitly admitted at the annual meeting of the Star Ferry Company held yesterday, with the blame for difficult and inadequate service being thrust upon Government. That there is a dispute between these two factions is obvious: what concerns the travelling public is why they should be the sufferers. The Star Ferry accuses Government of being responsible for retarding the work of reconstructing piers because it will not promise renewal of franchise until the Abercrombie report has been received and approved. Government's position in the argument has not been stated. It may be all, less, or more what the Star Ferries claim. But to the public who have suffered a fair amount of inconvenience for more than three years it seems that the time has passed when dialectics should govern the running of a utility service. Undoubtedly the Star Ferry fares are reasonable; that the monthly ticket holder is, from the pocket-book point of view being given a fair deal; assuredly the company's staff, from crews to inspectors, are performing a first class job. All this is recognised and appreciated. But the fact remains that for the harbour commuter, travelling, especially at the peak hours, is a trial and an irksome problem. It is admitted that the annual load for 1948 was nearly three times that of pre-war; yet the physical ability to handle that increase today is no greater, if anything slightly

less. No visible attempt has been made to correct this position. The fleet is one short of the pre-war strength; the piers are the same (except that one on either side of the harbour seems to be in a permanent state of repair; thus reducing the speed by which passengers can be off and on loaded); and, because the traffic today is three times pre-war, this means to the passengers irritating delays in getting from one side of the harbour to the other. A duty to solve this problem appears to devolve on two parties—Government and the Star Ferry Company. On Government's part, to extend the franchise once it is satisfied that necessary improvements are going to be made to the service; on the company's part to make those guarantees. It may well be that development and modernisation of the Star Ferry service is dependent on the Abercrombie report. If this be so the sooner Government is told to insist on production of that report, the better for the Colony. On the other hand, the public would appreciate an assurance that the franchiser has prepared at least a blueprint for bringing the ferry services into line with present-day requirements. On this score little has been said and some enlightenment would not come amiss. Government inertia on a public issue of this importance is intolerable and inexcusable. But it would help the public to place the blame more fairly if it were assured that those who are responsible for this utility service had done everything within their power to bring it into line with present-day requirements. The ferry service is indispensable to tens of thousands of workers in Hongkong; that is its importance, and that is why it must be maintained at the highest level of efficiency—Abercrombie Report notwithstanding.

WORLD NEWS IN PICTURES



NOT TWINS—This is just Sandy, an orang-utan in the New York Zoological Park, admiring herself in a mirror. Sandy is particularly fond of dressing up in a towel or any piece of material she can get, and her manners are at all times those of a perfect lady.



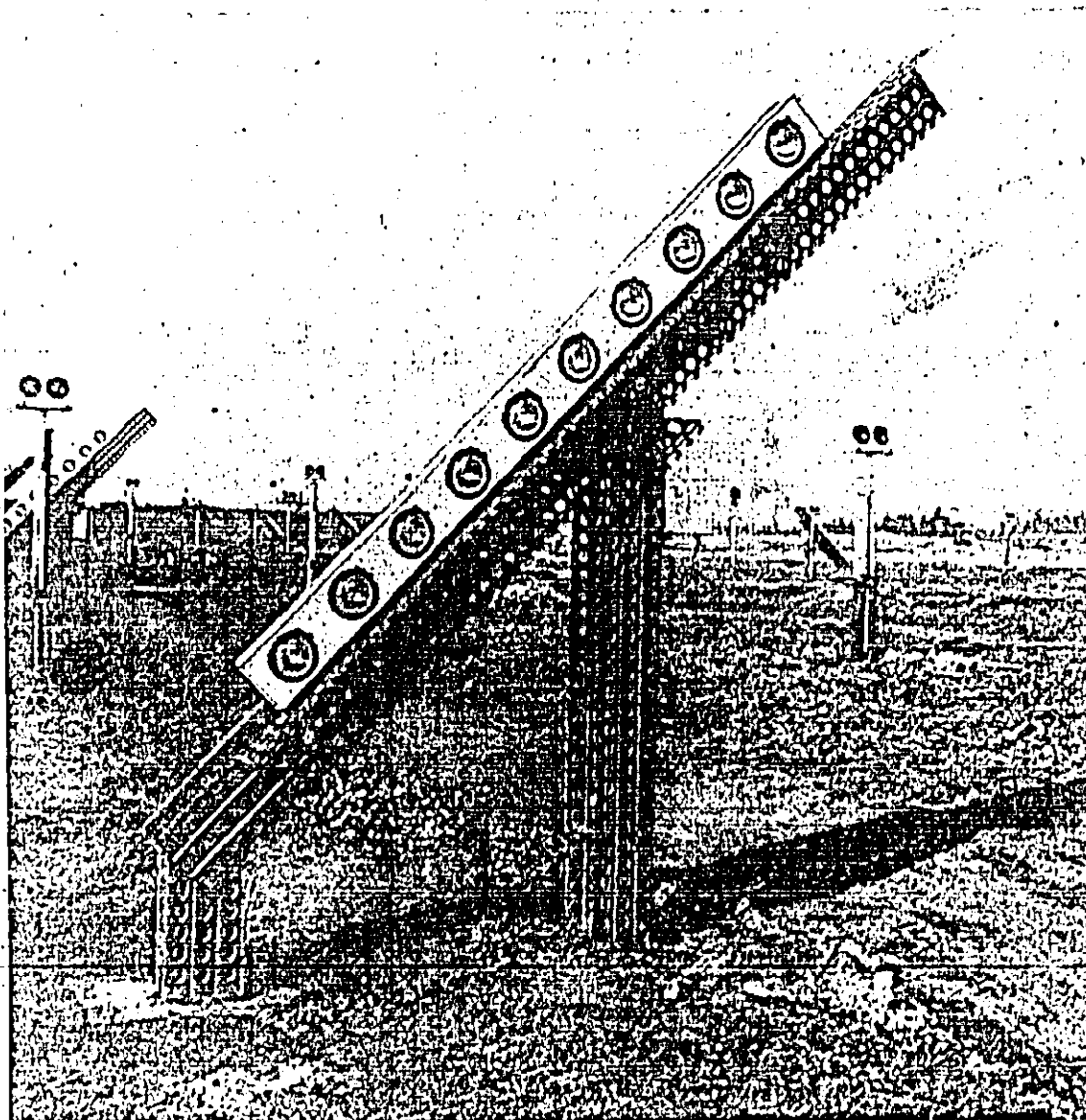
ALL IN A DAY'S WORK—This mountainside near Bristol, Tennessee, received a considerable jolt when engineers set off 1.3 million pounds of explosives. The blast—called the largest in construction history—loosened the almost solid rock mountain. So powerful were the explosives that the detonation was felt 25 miles away.



GUARD OF HONOUR—At Sun Valley, Idaho, Fact, a thoroughbred stallion, is given a skier's guard of honour. The horse was presented by Premier Josef Stalin to W. Averell Harriman when the latter was wartime Ambassador to Russia. Harriman has now had Fact retired.



INTERNATIONAL—A lot of countries are mixed up in this photograph. Gypsy Markoff, famous accordionist, took the French doll to New York from the West Indies with her on the Dutch liner, Nieuw Amsterdam.



SAFETY DEVICE—At Arcata, California, these new slopline approach lights are being tested. They were devised to bring aircraft in safely in poor visibility, and are being tried out at the Landing Aids Experimental Station.



DIFFERENT—This ankle-length evening gown is made with a slit top, shaped over the bosom, and has a wide midriff.



READY TO GO—This Washington State fire-fighter displays the equipment these men have when they jump. The U.S. Forest Service trains these men to drop by parachute into inaccessible areas when forest fires break out.



RECORD BREAKERS—Major Russell E. Schleich, left, and Major Joseph W. Howell, right, pilot and co-pilot of the United States Air Force six-jet B-47 bomber, are congratulated by Brig.-Gen. Yantiss H. Taylor in Washington. Schleich and Howell broke the previous transcontinental speed record when they crossed the country in three hours, 46 minutes.



CELEBRATION—Sister Miriam Joseph had just been elected president of the Catholic First Grade Organisation in Chicago, Illinois. She celebrated by scoring a strike in a bowling game.

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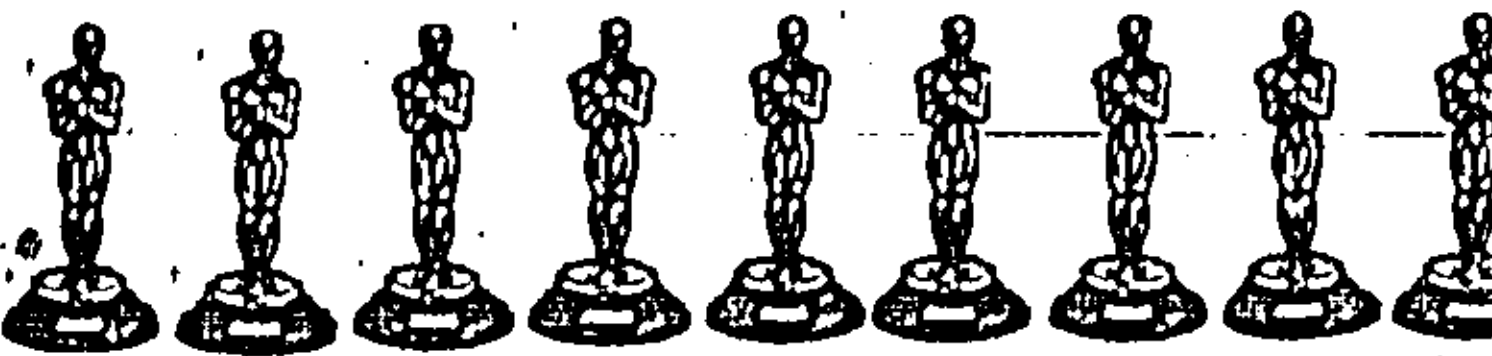
—because this exciting new shade really does make your lips look young and gay.

—because it gives you all the famous advantages of Tangee's exclusive Petal-Finish. Discover GAY RED today.

USE TANGEE AND SEE HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU CAN BE

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TO-MORROW "HER HUSBAND'S AFFAIRS"



"Gorgo, this presentation of cigartotes the village made you—is it true you've been selling them at the local for three shillings a packet?"

JAMES CAMERON, Britain's most travelled reporter (he has a log book showing 100,000 miles) comes down to earth for his latest assignment, and he says . . .

give me the old-fashioned airplane...

T BACK IN GERMANY. THIS is travel now, cooped up in one's little rocking, thudding cell, clattering through the darkness eastwards from Brussels. For once, no matter what goes wrong with this journey, one cannot blame the airways; for once, we are travelling—how splendid is science—on the surface of the earth, not 8,000ft. above it.

Outside is the lamp-speckled, anonymous blackness of Westphalia. No bomb pits, no shell scars in the night. There might have been no war, till day lights up its ruin again.

A little while ago in Aachen a German official plunged his kepi in the door for passports with a gruff, "Guten Abend."

The light is still too dark for reading, too bright for sleep. The Nord Express trundles noisily along, in no way changed, it seems, from the last time I rode on it 13 years ago.

Trains have that disturbing romance which planes have not. In the past two or three years I have done a mileage equivalent of some three circuits of the world, but this is the first time I have done any part of it by good old train-boat-train.

TO THE COAST NOW, finally, I am sitting like some Eric Ambler character surrounded almost certainly by strange and suspect consulars of who knows what mysterious international interests.

The man in the corner looks like a C.C.G. official homing from leave in Streatham, the man behind the enormous black beard claims to be a salesman from Leipzig; but I am in the mood to see intrigue and conspiracy in those brief-cases, those folded copies of *Le Soir de Bruxelles*.

I feel there should be something in this for Alfred Hitchcock. I have, as I say, got out of the way of trains.

It begins in a most mundane and embarrassing fashion. I have caught airplanes at hours

all round the clock, hot and cold, dark and light, well and ill; all I wanted was the eight a.m. from Victoria, and I missed it. I reached the coast behind schedule and ill at ease.

How one hates the rolling main. I go aboard slightly numb by a precautionary breakfast of anti-sickness tablets and black coffee. I have been to four continents, but this Channel packet is the biggest ship on which I have ever been. It is not nearly big enough.

Does one say in a Channel steamer or on a For-mer, it is in, as deeply as possible, rather the smells and the creaks than the constant prospect of that greasy, turbulent, inhospitable, emetic sea.

TO OSTEND THE ship is full of nuns, as usual—what crosses Channel commuters these nuns are! From earliest youth I remember this crossing as peopled with them. They sit in corners, pale and silent, but they are never sick—how could they be?

The boat decants me wanly on to Ostend in a dank and bitter gale. *La Reine des Plages*. Had I flown I would have been in Vienna by now—or equally probably still at Northolt.

The train waits, emitting that type of damp, gassing steam characteristic of less grand express Europeans. It waits with London, Ostende, Bruxelles, Koeln, Frankfurt, Kopenhagen, Praha written on its iron flank. It has a long way to go and a lot of time to get there.

There is no silly optimism about us being on the point of departure—had it been a plane one would be continually encouraged by "Any minute now."

Here the train will leave when it is good and ready—

Night drags mournfully on. The deeper into Europe the slower and more reluctantly goes Nord Express; it is heading now into the gritty nose of the Ruhr, and I cannot blame it.

The six languages in our coach gradually die down; all that is left now is a plaintive English voice brooding over difficulties of getting hold of a few Belgian francs. (In the air one would never have heard him.)

So along we go, hundreds of tons of grating steel moving simultaneously over hundreds of steady miles. The Wright Brothers never thought of that.

The train is a wonderful thing, a great invention. But mark my words, children, it will never replace the good old-fashioned Skymaster airplane.

C.V.R. THOMPSON REPORTS
The American Scene

NEW YORK. THE great ambition of Mary Uglianitz, a typical American working girl, was to visit Britain.

The ambition grew out of all the wartime letters from her brother David about Britain and his English wife.

In the factory in North Bergen, New Jersey, where she works, there is a suggestion-box. One day she slipped in a suggestion that for the betterment of Anglo-American relations British and American working girls should regularly swap jobs.

Like everyone who uses a suggestion-box, Mary forgot all about it. But then her boss sent for her. Said he: "You said in the Queen Mary on February 11."

"I'm pretty lucky," Mary told me. "If my parents had not decided to come here from Russia I might have been working behind the Iron Curtain."

Mary, who is 22, will work as a tester in a lamp factory at Spennymoor, Durham. She will get the local wage instead of ten guineas a week.

She will live off rations instead of having as much meat, butter, and other things as her family can afford.

At home Mary gets up at 5.30 every morning to help get breakfast for the family and wash up. She likes skating and dancing, and prefers serious plays to films.

Nine Out Of 10 Need Glasses

My eyes are dim
I cannot see
I have not brought
My specs with me. . .

THE "Quartermaster's Stores" did not become the most popular Army and factory community song of the war for nothing. It was based on a home truth.

Four people in every ten need spectacles, because their eyes are dim and they cannot see even reasonably well.

Only one person in every ten of the thousands thronging opticians' parlours to have their eyes tested under Britain's new National Health Service is found to have perfect unaided vision.

So to Aneurin Bevan's quartermaster's stores on the civilian equivalent of Army Form 100, are pouring demands for spectacles at the rate of 12 million pairs a year.

Since the Health Service began last July, Britain's optical industry has increased production by a quarter and is now making spectacles at a rate of nearly seven million pairs a year.

The difference between demand and production explains the delay in getting spectacles. Average delay is now about 12 weeks.

Before the Health Service, annual production of spectacles dropped considerably below the yearly average of 5½ million pairs.

Then, on July 5, 1948, the situation changed dramatically overnight. The industry, from being virtually at a standstill, was jerked into very rapid motion. It has not yet regained its balance, but the production arrears are no longer increasing so fast.

CHIEF FACTOR Chief factor handicapping production is shortage of lenses. This is caused by (a) lack of skilled workers and (b) lack of machinery—but this is now being overcome.

Spectacle-makers are divided into two main groups, prescription houses and quantity production houses. They make both frames and lenses by different methods, but using the same principles.

They employ about 8,000 people. There are dozens of prescription houses, only about six large-scale manufacturers.

She makes most of her own clothes. A month or so from now an English girl from Spennymoor will come over to do Mary's work in the North Bergen factory.

AMERICA'S most persuasive Roman Catholics are trying to persuade Earl Browder, wartime boss of the U.S. Communist Party, to turn Catholic.

A LOCAL RAILWAY is going to experiment with a Broadway special. Suburbanites living up to 70 miles from New York will be able to buy tickets for the shows from railway booking offices. The train will bring them into town in time for dinner and the show, and on the return trip supper and drinks will be served to complete the night out.

DOCTORS blame the death of banker Nathan McClure, of Harrison, New York, upon a misadventure likely to befall few in Britain. He choked on a piece of steak.

BACK IN NEW YORK for the first time since the war, the Queen of Bermuda got the biggest reception of any British ship yet. Apart from the usual whistles and sirens in New York's bay, there was a crowd of sightseers, most of them middle-aged, at the pier. The reason: New Yorkers remember with nostalgia the liquor cruises they took in her between here and Bermuda during Prohibition.

Now, aged 71, Max has just flown to Australia to keep an eye on export business. When he began, Britain imported 95 percent of her spectacles. Now she makes all her own and sends 11 percent of her lens production overseas, mainly to the Dominions.

The Alperton factory, managed by John Wiseman, can make 1,500 different lenses, about 95 percent of all required. They come in a multitude of different sizes, shapes and optical powers, and are classified broadly into two kinds, flat and curved.

Curved lenses are the best, and are prescribed for Health Scheme spectacles. But they are more difficult to make.

About 400 different curved lenses are in everyday popular demand. Each type needs its own moulds, dies, grinding and polishing tools.

Changing over the machines takes time, so production has to be planned on a six-weeks cycle of work.

MUCH IN DEMAND I saw in production a much demanded type of "spherical-cylindrical toric" lens—that is, one shaped like a section of the side of a barrel.

Imagine several aeroplane hangars joined together filled with rows of clanking, squeaking machinery. Each row has a line of rotating spindles so devised that dozens of lenses are ground or polished with a slow circular sweep, rather as a bald headed man wipes round his crown when hot. Workers, machines and factory floor are red with a coating of liquid rouge.

The process begins when the glass blank, weighing about 9 drams, is moulded to the rough shape of the required lens.

The disc is heated to 1,775 degrees F. and shaped by a pneumatic plunger and die. The shaped disc is then annealed by cooling for 24 hours to avoid internal strains which would cause the lens to shatter.

After testing for flaws, twelve discs at a time are glued with pitch on to a small cast-iron wheel. Then the wheel is mounted on the spindles of a machine.

HOURS OF GRINDING Then follow hours of tedious grinding (with abrasive), smoothing and polishing (with rouge and felt). The machines carry on when the operators go to lunch.

After examination for tiny scratches—called striae—the process starts all over again on the reverse side of the lens.

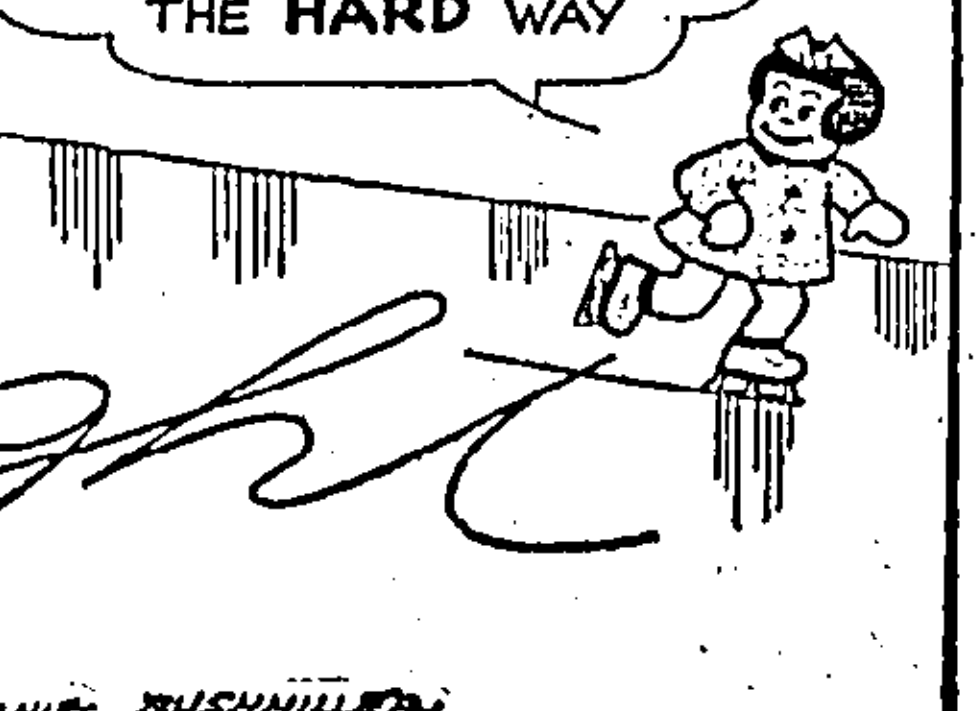
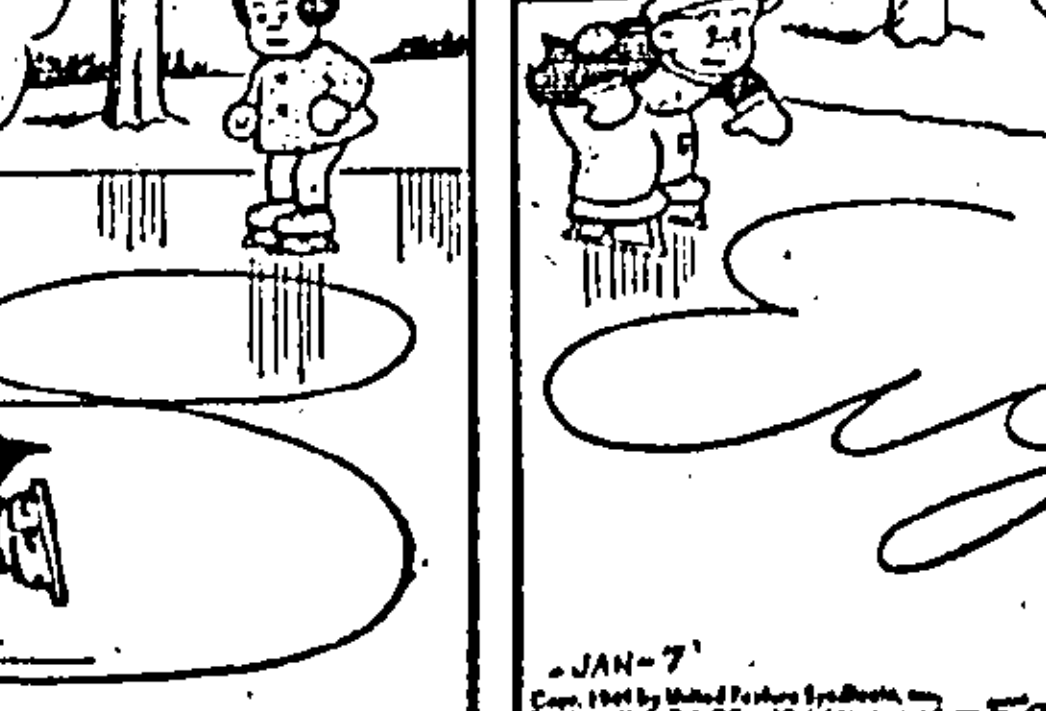
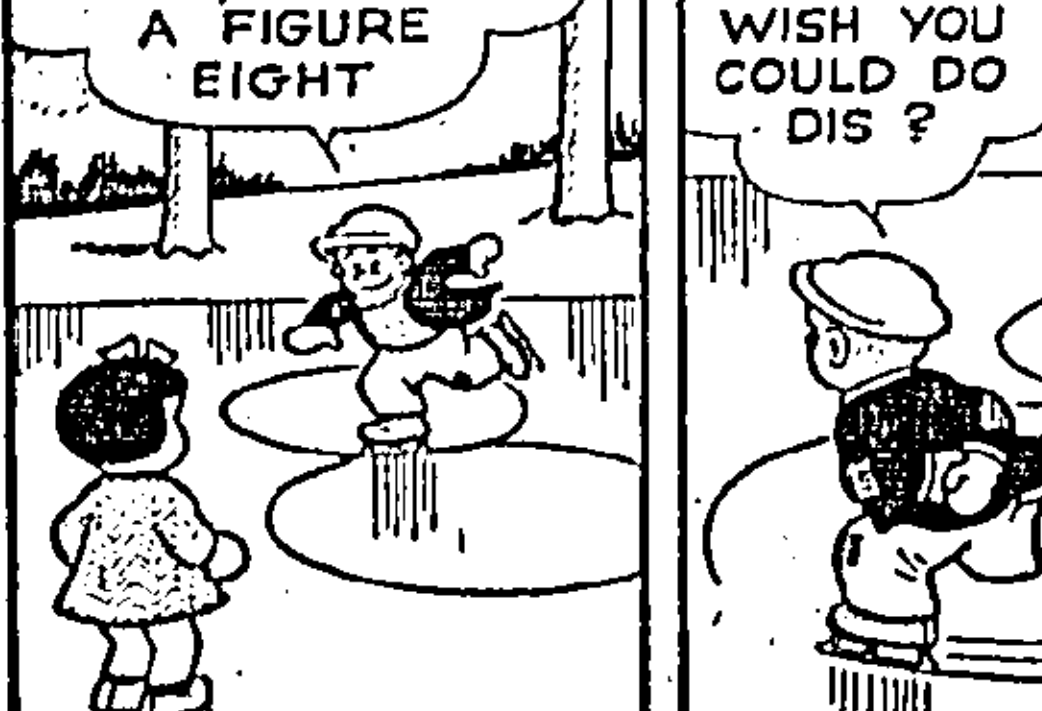
After being removed from the pitch by freezing—the pitch contracts more than the glass—the lenses are given a naphtha bath to remove any pitch and traces of rouge, and are then polished by hand. Now, for the first time, they appear as shining bits of spectacle glass.

Each is tested for power, thickness, surface quality and optical concentration. Each lens must be accurate to one ten-thousandth of an inch, but usually the accuracy is even greater.

Spectacle frames are cut and pressed from sheets of plastic in many varying colours; flesh-coloured, pink and brown are the most popular. Metal frames are made from drawn wire with a thin skin of gold around it. Cases are made by specialist firms, cost eighteen pence.

NANCY She Got His Number

By Erle Bushmiller.



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P.W.D. LARCENY TRIAL:

Witness Admits May Improved System

"EASY FOR FOREMEN TO STEAL GOODS BEFORE THE WAR"

J. C. Brown, Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer of the Public Works Department, was cross-examined by Mr A. J. Clifford at the Criminal Sessions this morning when the PWD larceny trial hearing was resumed before Mr Justice Williams and a jury comprising five men and two women.

Facing three charges of theft by public servant and falsification of accounts with intent to defraud the Government are Kwok Kwong, 47, foreman, and Arthur Frederick May, 41, electrical inspector, grade I. May is defended by Mr Clifford, on the instructions of Mr J. C. Stewart. Kwok is not legally represented.

Prosecuting on behalf of the Crown is Mr A. Hooton, instructed by Mr J. Johnston, ASP.

Replying to defence counsel, Brown confirmed that May devised the present system of forms in the electrical department. In pre-war days stores were drawn from Wanchai just by writing on bits of paper.

Mr Clifford: How were stores drawn from the Government stores at Wanchai in 1939?

Witness: On a stores requisition form which was issued from Government stores on an issue voucher.

Mr Clifford: Now the system of small pieces of paper was the method by which foremen could draw stores from Wanchai's stores.

And if there were any stores left over from a job was there any check as to how those stores were used elsewhere? Not as far as I remember.

They could have been put into or used on any job, is that right?—Yes.

What was the system of estimates before the war? There were no estimate sheets until just before the war.

MAY'S SYSTEM

Was that May's system to get the estimates in detail?—Yes.

Replying further, Brown admitted that there were improvements in the Wanchai stores devised by May for the keeping of stores. Under the old system stores in Wanchai were just left lying around. May introduced a system of bins and shelves and had the stores and their quantities indexed.

Mr Clifford: Is it true that all the regulations now in force with regard to keeping of stores at Wanchai were made by May?—Yes, he drew them up after the British reoccupation.

Is it true to say that under the pre-war system it would have been very easy for foremen to get away with goods?—Yes, the system was rather lax in that respect.

And the system involved complete trust in the foremen?—Yes.

Brown agreed that the system devised by May afforded a much greater measure of security.

Brown also agreed that on a day job the materials would not all be drawn at once from the stores but would be drawn in small lots at a time. It was permissible for stores to be either taken from Wanchai to Hongkong or straight to the job. Hongkong was just a transit depot for the distribution of stores. While in transit the stores were the sole responsibility of the foreman, but the inspector always had overall control. The key of the stores was with the foreman.

Brown agreed that as far as transit was concerned there was no way the inspector could check up except by physical counting.

He also agreed that when a job was completed an electrical inventory was made regarding the fittings, switches and sockets, and it was signed by the occupier of the quarters or the person in charge of the premises, agreeing that the fittings were there. The inventory would also be signed by the inspector.

Mr Clifford: This inventory would be checked against the stores drawn from the Government stores for the job.

NOT ENOUGH STAFF

Brown: That would be the idea, but there was not enough staff to do that. That would be the idea of the system.

And in the event of the inventory not coinciding with the issue, the head office would call for the return of some amount of the stores which had not been used. That was the idea of it.

Every time stores were drawn in the stores order note that should be entered on the back of the estimate sheet by the Wanchai storekeeper. And was that regulation drawn up by May that it should be? That was the purpose of it and there was a regulation to that effect in force.

Brown agreed that if a job was to be done quickly it was perfectly proper for materials to be taken to it from another job.

Brown said that May's duty was to see that the work was properly carried out in accordance with the wiring rules and regulations, whether suitable materials were used and whether proper workmanship was being put on the job. That was the purpose of the visits of the inspectors.

In answer to Mr Clifford, witness said he would not expect an inspector to check the materials with the store order note. There would not be time for such a physical check.

Neither would he expect the inspector to notice that a particular wire was not of the type in the store order note, as long as the wire was suitable for the job. Although an inspector might sometimes remember what was on the store order note, he would not be expected to check the materials at all. He had merely to look over and see that the material was suitable, not to make a specific check.

MAY'S COMPLAINT

Brown recalled that at the end of July last year May complained that the daily labour distribution board had been re-arranged without his permission.

Explaining the system of the daily labour and distribution of jobs reports, Brown said it was the duty of the charge-hand to make a written note of the workmen under him saying on

what jobs they were. This note was handed in to the office and was an account of what happened the previous day. It also showed absence, sickness, for morning and afternoon.

All daily paid labour appeared on the report, including men who worked in the workshops and not on the particular site of the job.

If a man did several jobs over a period of days, he would appear under one job on one day and under another the next day. If workmen were needed for an urgent job which had not yet been authorised, they would be put under another authorised job for that day in the report and when the authorisation for the urgent job came through, some of the workmen from the other job would be placed under the urgent job in the report to balance it up.

Brown said that when he signed the report it was not to certify that the distribution of labour shown was accurate, but that he agreed with the distribution of costs.

He said that the daily attendance and job report was made out at Wanchai for both Hongkong and Kowloon.

The details were telephoned from Hongkong. The purpose of this report was to give an overall picture of the total number of workmen employed on any one day in the morning or afternoon, including particulars of any engaged, discharged, sick, absent, or on leave. This report was made out from the time sheet which was for pay.

The time-sheet for Wanchai made out from information given over the telephone. There was no Daily Attendance and Job Report for the days from August 9, 1948 to September 21, 1948.

The case is proceeding.

St David's Day Ceremony

In commemoration of St David's Day, members of the Welsh community in Hongkong gathered at the Cathay at 2.30 o'clock this morning when a service was held by Mr J. R. Jones, President of the St David's Society, and Dr. Alan Thomas. Several Welsh officers attended.

By kind permission of the General Officer Commanding the Royal Marines, a detachment of Marines was drawn up for the ceremony.

Burglers from H.M.S. Belfast sounded the "Last Post" and "Reveille".

A dinner in honour of the patron St David's Day will be held at the Roof Garden of the Hongkong Hotel tonight at 8.30 p.m. Dancing will follow the dinner.

ABORIGINAL STILL ALIVE

(Continued from Page 1)

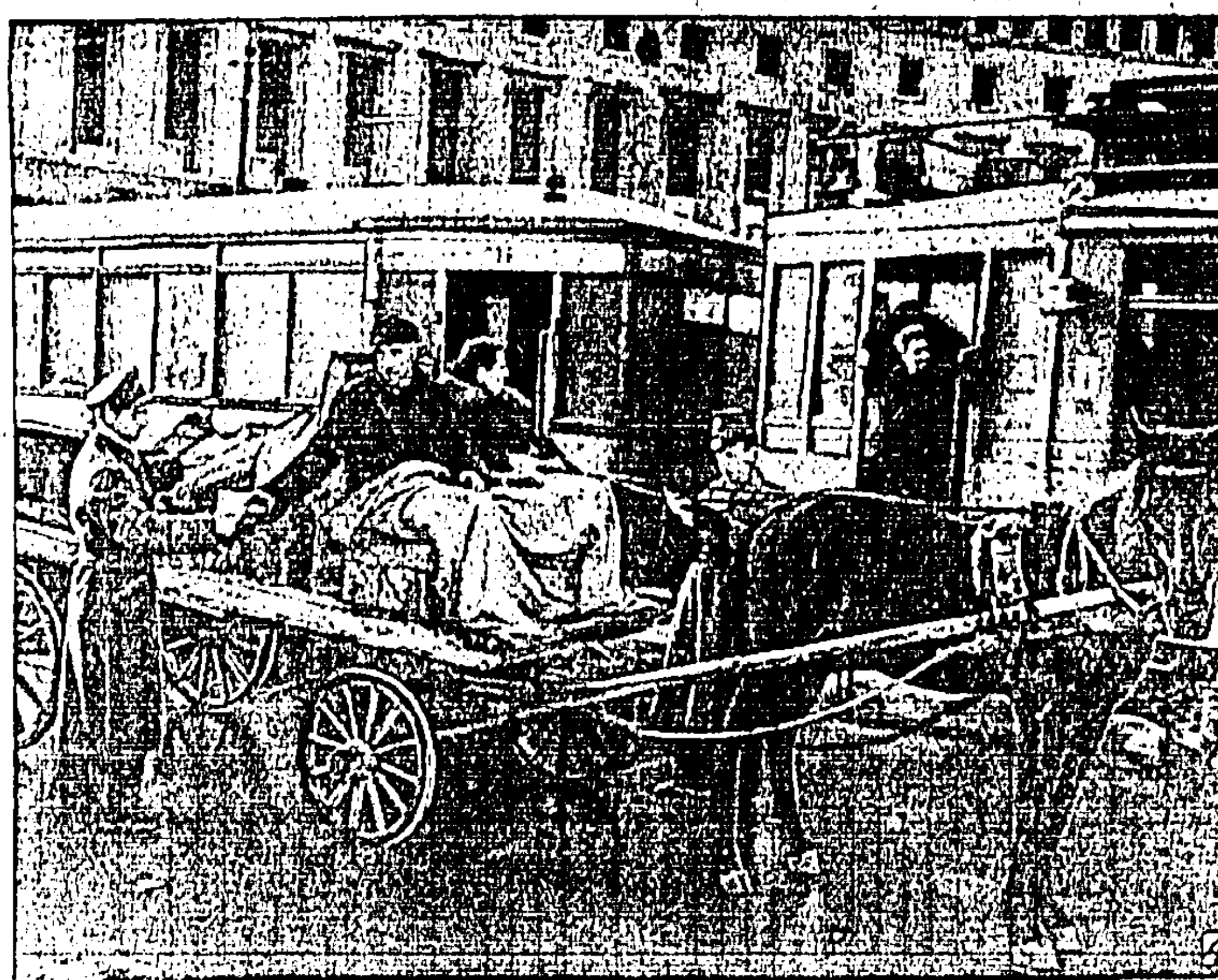
Raiwala, himself described as the greatest warrior of the nomadic tribes in North Australia, fell ill and the chase came to a halt. His wife, also exhausted by their hardships in the scrub, found a water hole and dragged Raiwala to it. He died for water with his bare hands.

Raiwala there regained strength and eventually fell in with some other natives and made their way overland to Mainmori station, on the southern border of Arnhem Land.

The police are now searching for Raiwala's "murderer" and are also looking for a party of tribesmen, reported to have gone out to avenge Raiwala's "death". It will be four to six weeks before the police can be told that "the great warrior" is not dead, as they are patrolling a wild and unexplored country.—Reuter.

N.Y. SNOWSTORM

New York, Feb. 28.—Snow storm abating in New York Harbour today and halted almost all flights to and from Laguardia Airport. Today's Security Council meeting was cancelled because of heavy snow in New York. The meeting had been called to deal with strategic trust territories.—Reuter.



COUNTER-BLOCK—A policeman in the western sector of Berlin checks a truckman's credentials in the drive to prevent vital products from leaking into Soviet-occupied territory.

Britain To Get Meat From France

London, Feb. 28.—A Ministry of Food spokesman said today that talks with French experts to arrange for British imports of French meat will start "in a day or two."

It was announced last week that France will send 1,000 tons of canned meats to Britain.

This week's talks will refer to 7,500 tons of fresh meat.

Imports from France might ease Britain's acute meat shortage a little, a spokesman said, but they would not greatly affect the regular British meat trade.—Associated Press.

Communists Choose Delegates

(Continued from Page 1) the broken down governmental machine to permit the resumption of co-operation and unity which was evident at the time the Generalissimo stepped down. The fact that Premier Sun Fo brought along considerable baggage indicated that he might remain in Nanking at least through the present stage of the peace crisis.

About the sole remaining rift in the government structure is a group of Canton members of the Legislative Yuan who still insist on remaining there. They are going ahead with their plans to hold a session in Canton, but the session in Nanking which got underway yesterday was generally accepted as the sole legal convocation of law-makers.

The Chinese Communist radio, in its report on the Shanghai peace delegation, made a straight objective report on the peace talks, and arriving in Nanking and carried the verbatim text of the brief statement that Dr Yen and other mission members released in Nanking.—United Press.

SUPPORT FOR LI Shanghai, Feb. 28.—The Chinese Red radio today charged that the Tokyo conference of military officials at the time of the visit there of Army Secretary Kenneth C. Royall adopted a "policy supporting Li Tsung-jen."

The broadcast said, "It was learned that a policy of supporting Li Tsung-jen was adopted by the Tokyo conference. The policy was adopted by the American War Department, and Major General David Barr, head of the American Joint Military Advisory Group to the Kuomintang government."

The same item also asserted, "The long publicised plan for the withdrawal of American Marines from Tsingtao has been cancelled by Mr Leighton Stuart, American Ambassador to Nanking, and Vice-Admiral Oscar Badger, Commander of the American fleet in the West Pacific, according to reliable reports. One reason for this change is the request of Li Tsung-jen, who hopes to maintain Tsingtao as a springboard with the help of American Navy."

This fresh return to attacks on the Americans came on the heels of the Communist radio comment on the seizure of 6,600 bags of ECA flour in Peking, which the Communists justified on the grounds that it had been turned over to the Nationalists by the ECA, therefore it was no longer within ECA jurisdiction.

The same broadcast, in criticism of Li Tsung-jen, pointedly mentioned that the President attended a dinner as the guest of Ambassador Stuart on his return from a swing through South China.—United Press.

Man Charged With Kidnapping Boy

Prosecution Describes A "Heartless Operation"

Described by Crown Counsel as a "heartless operation, carried out by unscrupulous people," the story of the kidnapping of a six-year-old boy for ransom was recounted before the Chief Justice, Sir Leslie Gibson, and a Jury at the Criminal Sessions this morning.

It was alleged that the boy's mother, a widow, had to sell all her possessions in order to raise a sum of \$1,600 to effect her son's release.

The accused was Mak Kau, a New Territories villager, who was charged on five counts with forcibly taking away Chan Kwong-yu, aged six, with intent to procure a ransom for his liberation, child stealing, uttering a letter demanding \$5,000 with menace, conspiracy to utter a letter demanding money with menace, and conspiracy with another not in custody to demand money with menace.

He pleaded not guilty to all counts, and a Jury comprising four men and three women was empanelled.

Mr M. Heenan, Crown Counsel, assisted by Det. Sub-Inspector R. F. G. White, conducted the prosecution. The accused was not legally represented.

DEMAND FOR \$5,000 Mr Heenan said that on December 14, 1948, the boy failed to return home from school at Un Long, New Territories, and his mother, Ng Kwan, made a report of his disappearance to the Police at Ping Shan Station. Some days later, the mother received a letter by post. Its contents were read to her by her father-in-law, and it demanded the sum of \$5,000, with threats if the money was not paid, the letter further stated the boy would be held until the money was forthcoming.

The mother took no action, and two days later the accused, who was known to her and her family, called at their house at Fuk Ting Street, Un Long, and informed the woman that a friend of his knew something about her child.

The mother, in a distraught frame of mind, asked accused to help her to recover the boy. The following day, the accused paid another call and asked the mother if she had received a letter. The woman replied that she had, and the accused enquired if she had received a second letter. When told that she had not, he said she would receive it and that it would contain an increased demand for \$5,500, and enclosed a school-book belonging to the boy to prove that he was being held. He then suggested that the mother might let him have some fresh clothing for the boy, and promised to bring back the clothes worn by the child at the time of his disappearance.

She agreed to the suggestion, handed the accused clothing and also \$130 which he had requested as payment for his services.

SECOND LETTER The next day, the mother received the second letter, and it contained the increased demand for ransom money as well as one of the boy's school-books, exactly as stated by the accused. Two days later, the accused made another appearance and handed the mother the boy's dirty clothing. Then followed a number of visits by the accused to the woman, and it was the mission of the Crown that those visits amounted to bargaining between them as to the amount of money that should be paid for the boy's release.

Three negotiations took place over a period of seven to eight days. Finally, it was agreed that the friend of the friend of the accused would accept \$1,000 in total payment for the release of the child.

turn of the child. In the meantime, the mother, in order to raise the money, had sold her rice, melted her gold rings and had borrowed sums from various quarters to meet the required amount.

On December 30, the mother proceeded to a spot where she had arranged to meet the accused, but he was not there. A friend of hers, however, who was at the spot told the mother that the accused had left instructions that she should proceed to his home in Wanchai.

The mother followed those directions and went to Wanchai, but did not find the accused at the address given. She waited, and the accused eventually arrived. He asked if she had the money. She said she had not brought it with her, but had left it with her relatives. She further said she was not prepared to hand over the money until the boy was returned to her. The accused persuaded her to telephone her relatives for the money, and promised that he would at the same time go out and fetch the child.

MAN APPREHENDED The woman did as she was told, and her relatives arrived with the money. The boy was brought to the flat by the accused, and the money was paid over to him by the child's mother in the presence of her relatives. On returning to their home in the New Territories, and on questioning the boy, it was discovered that it was the accused who had originally taken the child away when he was returning home from school. Realising that the accused was in fact the villain of the piece, the relatives rushed back to Hongkong, detained the accused and handed him over to the Police.

A hand-writing expert would say that the two letters were not written in the accused's hand-writing, Crown Counsel continued, but it was the Crown's submission that his action in the whole matter clearly indicated that he was a party to the affair.

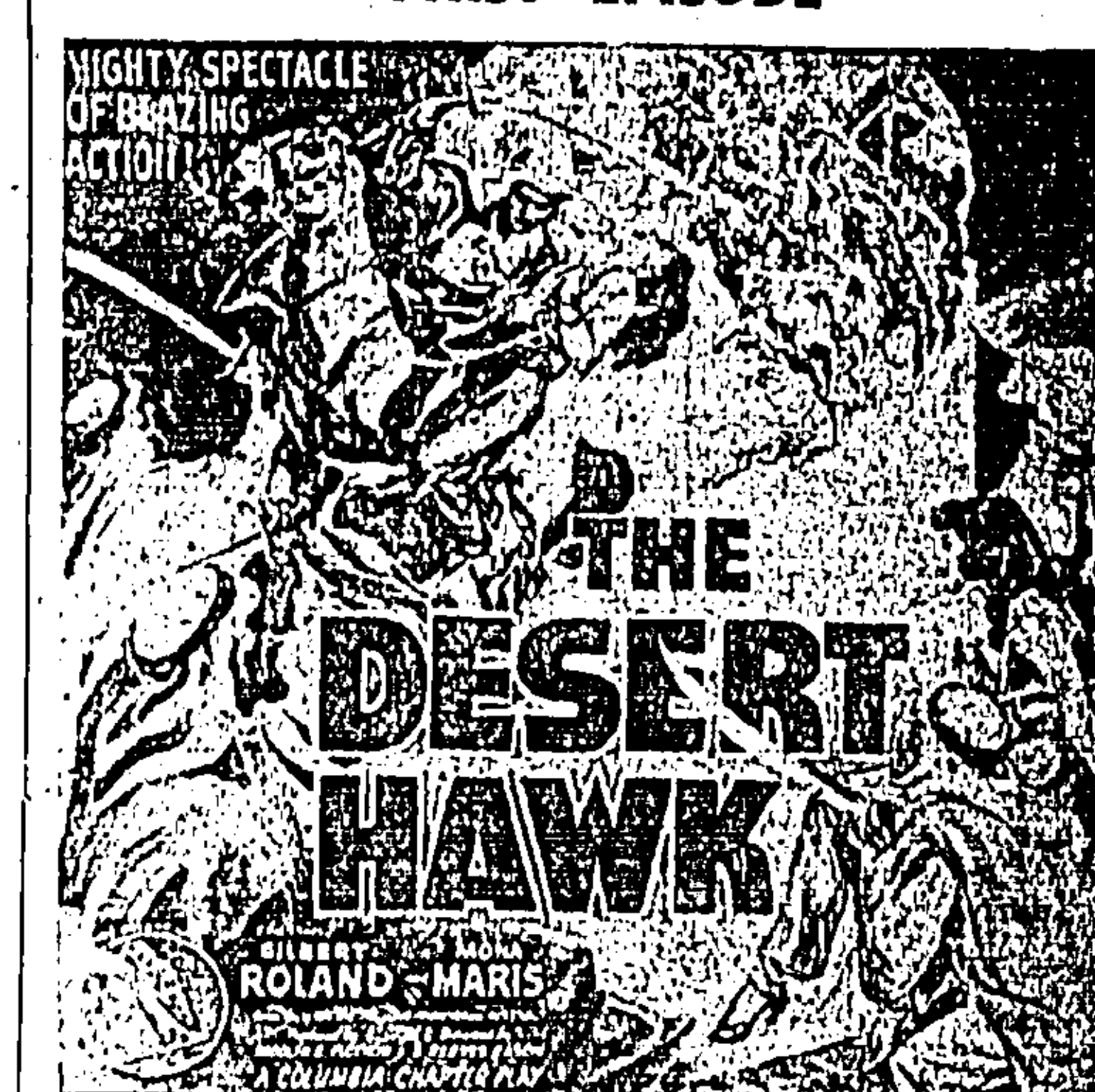
"The whole operation had been a most heartless affair," Mr Heenan remarked. "The mother was subjected to a great deal of worry over her child's absence, and she had to sell whatever property she had in order to meet the demands of these unscrupulous people. The money paid to the accused was not recovered, for the accused said at the time of his arrest that he had handed it over to his friend."

The six-year-old boy, carried in his mother's arms, gave his evidence from the witness-box. He identified the accused as the man who had taken him away, and said he knew him as "Kau Koi" (Brother Kau). He said he was taken from Un Long to Tam Shui, and then to Wanchai. During his captivity, he was fed by an old woman, he said.

In cross-examination, the accused denied he had abducted the boy. He alleged that the story told by the child had been concocted by his mother. The boy, he declared, did not know who had taken him away. The trial is proceeding.

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TO-MORROW—HER LOVE WAS AN EXOTIC TRAP! THAT LURED MEN TO DESTRUCTION! Merle OBERON George BRENT in "TEMPTATION"

Armistice Talks To Begin

Haifa, Feb. 28.—Israeli and Lebanese delegations are expected to meet tomorrow on the Israeli-Lebanese border to complete their talks for an armistice agreement, and probably sign it.

United Nations' officials were today contacting both sides to arrange the meeting.

The talks broke off five weeks ago although a draft agreement had already been endorsed.

There was no indication today of the composition of the Israeli delegation.

Efforts were being made to start negotiations between Israeli and Syria.—Reuter.

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T. Programme Summary: 6.01, "Fate" Walter and His Rhythm and Blues Band; 6.20, "Cantata" by Radio given by Miss Cantata; 6.30, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 6.40, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 6.50, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 7.00, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 7.10, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 7.20, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 7.30, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 7.40, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 7.50, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 8.00, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 8.10, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 8.20, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 8.30, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 8.40, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 8.50, "The Gay Rhythm" by the Radio News and News Analysts; 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Conference Seeking Means Of Restoring Burma Peace

CONCILIATION OFFER TO PREMIER

New Delhi, Feb. 28.—Ways and means to bring peace to Burma were proposed today by the representatives of Britain, India, Australia and Ceylon in an informal conference.

The representatives decided to offer help to the Government of Burma in an effort to end the civil war in that country, which left the Commonwealth 13 months ago. The latest reports from Rangoon spoke of the Karen rebels being "in full retreat" from Myitnge, seven miles south of Mandalay, with Government troops in full pursuit.

The year-old insurrection has cost Burma over 30,000 lives and more than £18 million, according to the Burmese Premier, Thakin Nu. Its effect on the export of Burmese rice is one of the avowed reasons for today's conference.

It was understood that questions of a joint Commonwealth loan to Burma and the rehabilitation of the Burmese rice industry, which is important to the Dominions conferring here, were set aside for the present.

The restoration of peace to the war-torn country is to be the primary consideration since financial reconstruction and the movement of rice exports will depend, to a large extent, upon public order and a stable Government.

Pandit Nehru, the Indian Prime Minister, who called the meeting at the suggestion of the United Kingdom, presided at the conference. The Australian External Affairs Minister, Dr. Herbert Ewart, and the United Kingdom Overseas Trade Minister, Mr. Arthur Bottomley, participated in the discussions, which were described in a communiqué as "informal." Ceylon's High Commissioner, Mr. M. W. L. D. Silva, and Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, the Special Commissioner General in South East Asia, were present.

SUGGESTIONS MADE

New Zealand and Pakistan, neither of which was able to send representatives, will be kept informed of the progress of the negotiations with Burma. A communiqué issued by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs today said: "The informal conference on the situation in Burma unanimously decided to address a joint communication to the Prime Minister of Burma, wherein certain suggestions were made for exploring ways and means for a peaceful settlement."

The communiqué added: "There was a consensus of opinion that peace and prosperity can be restored to Burma primarily through conciliation. It is understood that the Dominions offered their good offices to mediate between the Thakin Nu Government and the Karens, a conservative party Christian people differing racially from the Buddhist Burmese, who are demanding a separate State. It is believed in informed circles here that some progress had already been made towards an understanding with the Burmese Premier before the Commonwealth meeting was decided upon under the light of publicity.

Close observers of Burmese affairs are somewhat at a loss to understand as to what the Karens have been fighting for since it was known that the Thakin Nu Government and the Karens were approaching an amicable understanding, an autonomous Karen State, with only certain Federal powers reserved to the central authority in Rangoon.

The sudden appearance of Communists as the allies of the Karens, tribesmen who had left to hopeful quarters both in and out of Burma. The Karens had been regarded both by the Burmese and by outside observers as idealists.—Reuter.

DEFENCE AGREEMENT

London, Feb. 28.—The British Government had no intention of denouncing its defence agreement with Burma under which Britain gave facilities for the purchase of war materials, Mr. Hector McNeill, Minister of State, told the House of Commons today.

Mr. Patrick Donner, Conservative, had asked whether the obligation in the defence agreement with Burma to give reasonable facilities for buying war material extended to weapons to be used inside the country against the Karens.

He also asked when the three years, for which the agreement remained in force, would expire.

Mr. McNeill replied: "The British Government signed a defence agreement with the Burmese Government, under which the British Government contract to afford the latter all reasonable facilities for the purchase of war materials."

"The British Government have no intention of denouncing this agreement unilaterally. The agreement runs, in the first instance, for three years, from January 4, 1948, and thereafter subject to 12 months' notice on either side."

"No restrictions are placed on the use of war materials so obtained. Nor would it be appropriate to impose distinctions as suggested, much as the British Government regret the recent outbreak of Karen-Burmese communal strife and anxious as they and all Governments, friendly to the Burmese Government, are that this fighting should end."

BRITAIN'S OBLIGATION

Mr. Donner: "Is the British Government to show no sign of gratitude for unwavering loyalty during the Japanese invasion and occupation, often at great personal risk?"

Mr. McNeill: "The gratitude of the British Government is well-known, but it does not allow them to escape from a contractual obligation."

Mr. Keating: "Does the Minister think that the supply of arms for communal strife is, in the words of the defence agreement, reasonable?"

Mr. Thomas Reid, Labour: "Will the Minister see that the British Government does not take sides in this unfortunate civil war?"

Mr. Tom Driberg, Labour: "Is it not also unfortunate that British subjects, who should have known better, have been instigating the Karen rebels and trying to run guns to them? Will the Minister regulate the activities of those subjects?"

Mr. Daniel Lipson, Independent: "In view of the obligations to which the Minister has referred, will he not give advice to the Burmese Government giving self-government to the Karens?"

No reply was given to these questions.—Reuter.

Loyal Supporter

Tasmania, Feb. 28.—Mr. Anthony Eden, Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party, was asked here today at a press conference: "In view of Mr. Churchill's increasing age, is there any possibility of Mr. Churchill being deposed as Conservative leader?"

Mr. Eden replied promptly and emphatically: "I am a loyal supporter of Mr. Churchill and always will be."—Reuter.



"It's a wooden token. When you get ten of them, he gives you a dime."



Primitive bows and arrows are used thirty feet below the surface by the diving fishermen of Tanegashima, near Kyushu, Japan. They swim all year round, hiding behind rocks under water to corner schools of fish in dead ends. Only their goggles are modern.

The "Red" Dean Gives Evidence

IN KRAVCHENKO'S LIBEL SUIT

Paris, Feb. 28.—Victor Kravchenko's book "I Chose Freedom" paints a "ridiculous caricature of Stalin," Dr. Howlett Johnson, the "Red Dean" of Canterbury testified today.

Johnson, appearing as a witness for the publishers of Les Lettres Francaises, pro-Communist French Weekly newspaper, which Kravchenko is suing for libel, said he had a one-hour interview with Stalin during a visit to Russia.

"I was struck with his dignity and the regular features of his face," Johnson said. "It was not the same description 'given in the book which I consider a ridiculous caricature.'"

DOESN'T CORRESPOND

During his 25-minute testimony, Johnson made few references to Kravchenko's book but spoke a great deal about three he has written himself.

He did say that Kravchenko's description "did not correspond" to what he saw on his visit.

Georges Izard, Counsel for Kravchenko, asked, "since you met all the church leaders in Russia why do not you go to see Cardinal Mindszenty?"

"I don't think that has anything to do with my visit here," the Dean declared.

When Izard questioned Dr. Johnson concerning a recent article appearing about him in the British Daily Worker, the witness replied:

"I don't belong to any particular political party but I am always proud of my association with the Daily Worker" (he is a member of its editorial board).—Associated Press.

Priests, Merchants And Bankers On Blackmarketing Charges

Budapest, Feb. 28.—The trial of fourteen persons implicated in the activities of Cardinal Mindszenty opened in Budapest today in a people's court.

Mindszenty was sentenced to life imprisonment and six other defendants received sentences ranging from six years to life in a trial three weeks ago.

Those who went on trial today were listed as minor defendants in the case. They were charged with black market currency dealings and having "been in political conspiracy with those already sentenced."

In the previous trial defendants were charged with treason, espionage and black market dealings.

Among those in the dock today were three Roman Catholic priests, three bankers, eight brokers and merchants and the former secretary to Prince Paul Esterhazy.

Prince Esterhazy, formerly one of the richest men in Europe, was tried along with Cardinal Mindszenty and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

The clergymen on trial were Monsignor János Bona, former treasurer of the Cardinal, and two Jesuit monks, Jozsef Zid and Janos Zaradi.

A banker, Divadar Wylder, was granted a separate trial after his counsel had pleaded that he is seriously ill and such a trial might endanger his life. Wylder appeared in court but was returned to his cell.

DOCUMENTS COMPLICATED

Another defendant, Sandor Foltes, was ill and unable to appear in court today but it was expected that he would be recovered by tomorrow.

Because of the complicated nature of the documents, it was impossible to determine the total amount of money involved in the alleged black market currency dealings.

However, Dr. Horvath, Prince Esterhazy's former secretary,

Ice Age Still Retreating Say Scientists

Melbourne, Feb. 28.—Scientists now have certain confirmation that the Ice Age is still retreating and the world's climate is getting warmer, according to an Australian geologist, Mr. A. J. Lambeth.

Mr. Lambeth, who is a member of the party of Australian scientists who arrived here today after 14 months of scientific work on Heard Island, in the Antarctic, said that this was the first time that definite evidence had been obtained that the Southern Ice Cap was retreating.

He said he would not know until he had compiled his data as to how many million years would pass before the new Ice Age could be expected. It might take two years to correlate the information to determine the seasonal effects of the polar conditions, he said.

These scientists, who were recently relieved by another party of 12 scientists on Heard Island, said they had suffered no serious illness while on the island, but some of them had got colds and sore throats after they had boarded the Australian naval vessel, Labuan, for their return journey to Australia.

Heard Island is about 2,000 miles southwest of Perth.—Reuter.

SHOOTING FISH

All Set For Palace Investiture

London, Feb. 28.—A red-carpeted dais and rows of white and gold chairs have been placed in the ballroom of Buckingham Palace, ready for King George VI's Investiture tomorrow. From a chair on the dais, the King will confer honours and decorations on about 800 men and women, the recipients of honours in the New Year's List.

The King will remain seated because his doctors say the strain of standing during the two-hour ceremony—the first full-scale official function since his illness—would be too much for him.

On rows of white and gold chairs will be seated the friends and relatives of the invested or decorated, each of whom will be permitted to take guests. They will see portions of the palace they would not otherwise see in a lifetime.

50 KNIGHTHOODS

Previously, Investitures have been held on the ground floor in the long Grand Gallery, on whose walls are the portraits of the Kings and Queens of England. To reach the ballroom, the guests will have to climb the red-carpeted grand staircase.

It was in the ballroom that Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, once found a youth hiding under a chair. It was this discovery that led the Prince to place spikes along the boundary wall of the Palace grounds.

The King will bestow the accolade of Knighthood on 50 men. The recipients will queue up in a room adjoining the ballroom. First, four Yeomen of the Guard, brilliant in scarlet and gold white ruffes, will enter and take up their posts along the walls.

Then the King, escorted by the frock-coated Lord Chamberlain, will walk to the dais. The company will stand for the National Anthem, after which the King will tell them to be seated.

MUSICAL BACKGROUND

Without preamble, the first name will be called out by the Lord Chamberlain. To the strains of Mozart and Schubert, played by a band in the back-ground, the King will take medals, jewelled Orders and bright silk sashes, one by one, from the red velvet cushion held before him by two members of the household.

Usually he talks quietly to the recipients and sometimes touches a kneeling man on each shoulder with his sword. Children under seven are not permitted to attend. During the war, widows receiving the posthumous awards of their husbands often cried because they found the ceremony so moving. The children then cried too and the programme of the ceremony was delayed.

Originally it has been intended for the King to hold two Investitures in January, but these were cancelled because of his illness.—Reuter.

Stalin Reduces Retail Prices

London, Feb. 28.—Moscow Radio tonight broadcast a decree signed by Marshal Stalin, reducing the retail prices of bread, butter, flour and tobacco in Russia by 10 percent from tomorrow.

The decree also reduced the prices on a large range of food, clothing and household goods. The Radio said the reductions marked "the second stage in the campaign for reducing retail commodity prices." Losses to the State in making these reductions "must be covered, and undoubtedly will be covered, by a number of economic measures, in spite of the serious difficulties that will have to be overcome," the Radio said.—Reuter.

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Assistance For Backward Countries

BRITISH SUPPORT
Lake Success, Feb. 28.—Britain threw its weight behind the American plan, for economic assistance to backward countries, in the United Nations today but India criticised the plan because it did not say specifically who was going to pay for it.

The United Nations Social and Economic Council began the debate on "President Truman's 'bold new programme' for economic assistance to the world's backward areas."

Mr. Christopher Mayhew, British Under-Secretary of State, told the Council: "All our experience confirms Mr. Willard Thorp's statement that this is a task for decades, not for years. We are conscious that, however bold the programme, all that can be done in the first few years cannot be sufficient... for the vast underdeveloped areas of the world. I know I am voicing the opinion of the majority of members of the Council when I say how much we welcome the lead given by President Truman in his inaugural address on the problem of development."

READY AND ANXIOUS

The Under-Secretary warned, however, that the United Nations should confine the administration of any assistance programme to one agency rather than spread its funds through various special agencies and regional commissions, although he added that the work of these agencies should continue while the new programme was being formulated.

He said Britain was "ready and anxious" to compete with other countries, "both within and outside United Nations machinery," to contribute technical assistance to the world's backward areas, within its means. He pointed out that Britain had currently embarked on a ten-year programme for development of its colonial areas, which include many of the world's underdeveloped areas.

Mr. Mayhew urged the United Nations to aim at lowering of excessively high protective tariff barriers to aid backward areas, but added that the chief means of developing these countries were by self-help, through financing by countries and organisations such as the International Bank.

"We share the view that every type of technical co-operation should be encouraged and at the level of inter-governmental co-operation. The most efficient method should be used, whether bilateral or multilateral."—United Press.

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